

Message Text

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ACTION CU-04

INFO OCT-01 NEA-05 ADP-00 /010 W

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R 170931Z JUL 73 ZFG

FM AMEMBASSY COLOMBO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9770

USIA WASHDC

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: OEXC, CE

SUBJ: VISIT OF UNIVERSITY OF MARYLAND TEAM

JOINT EMBASSY/USIS MESSAGE

1. A 3 MAN TEAM FROM UNIV OF MARLYAND SPENT WEEK OF JULY 8-15 HERE DISCUSSING ESTABLISHMENT OF COLLABORATIVE RESEARCH AND EDUCATION PROGRAM WITH UNIV OF SRI LANKA. TEAM WAS LEBCMY CYRIL PONNAMPERUMA, A FORMER CEYLONSE, WHO HAS BEEN WORKING TOWARDS THIS END FOR PAST TWO YEARS.

2. A DRAFT AGREEMENT WAS NEGOTIATED SETTING UP A 6 MAN COORDINATING COMMITTEE TO APPROVE INDIVIDUAL PROJECTS AND SUPERVISE PROGRAM. IN COURSE OF SERIES OF MEETINGS WITH UNIV OF SRI LANKA PROFESSORS, OFFICERS OF VARIOUS RESEARCH ORGANIZATIONS AND GSL OFFICIALS, SEVERAL AREAS IN AGRICULTURAL AND APPLIED SCIENCES FIELDS WERE IDENTIFIED AS PROMISING POSSIBILITIES FOR JOINT RESEARCH.

3. AS ESSENCE OF UNDERTAKING IS ITS PRIVATE, UNIVERSITY-TO-UNIVERSITY CHARACTER, MISSION LIMITED ITSELF TO EXPRESSIONS OF BENEVOLENT INTEREST. THE TEAM PAID A COURTESY CALL ON AMBASSADOR WHEN THEY ARRIVED AND HE GAVE DINNER IN THEIR HONOR JUST BEFORE THEIR DEPARTURE. THE PAO AND DIRECTOR OF USEF SERVED ON VICE CHANCELLOR'S COMMITTEE WHICH PREPARED FOR VISIT AND CONDUCTED NEGOTIATIONS, BUT IN ADVISORY RATHER THAN PARTICIPATORY CAPACITIES. THE ONLY ADDITIONAL USG ROLE NOW FORESEEABLE IS POSSIBLE NOMINATION OF VICE CHANCELLOR FOR IVP GRANT,

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ABLE IS POSSIBLE NOMINATION OF VICE CHANCELLOR FOR IVP GRANT,

A PART OF WHICH HE MIGHT SPEND AT MARYLAND.

4. WHILE THIS PROGRAM HAS SOME DISTANCE YET TO GO BEFORE
REALIZATION, OUTLOOK IS PROMISING. EVEN IF CONDUCTED ON ONLY
LIMITED BASIS, IT WILL BE USEFUL; AT OPTIMUM, IT COULD DEVELOP
INTO QUITE SUBSTANTIAL COOPERATIVE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN THESE
TWO UNIVERSITIES.

VAN HOLLEN

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptoning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: n/a
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 17 JUL 1973
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: worrelsw
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1973COLOMB01797
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: n/a
From: COLOMBO
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1973/newtext/t19730729/aaaaavjx.tel
Line Count: 69
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE
Office: ACTION CU
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: worrelsw
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 07 JAN 2002
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <07-Jan-2002 by willialc>; APPROVED <27 FEB 2002 by worrelsw>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: VISIT OF UNIVERSITY OF MARYLAND TEAM JOINT EMBASSY/USIS MESSAGE
TAGS: OEXC, CE
To: STATE USIA
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005